

# Point Three



The Torch magazine  
December 1983 10p



**'A Happy Christmas to All Our Readers'**



# Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House — the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

## Cover Picture

The 1983 Marsh Farm playscheme in Luton reached its climax with a Toc H fancy dress party when incredible quantities of jelly and cakes disappeared!

Photo: Evening Post (Hemel Hempstead)

# Personal View

In the coming year, we in Toc H will need to show two special qualities if we are to move ahead. One is the ability to link past, present and future and in particular to select, encourage and support new young leaders: the corollary is that we ourselves must be ready to move out to make room for them. The second quality we need more than ever is the moral courage that leads us to say and do what we know to be right — however unpopular.

50 years ago exactly, Tubby wrote to the Editor of the Toc H Journal. We reprint here an extract from that letter since Tubby makes my first point much more powerfully than I ever could.

*'There is a most outstanding principle, the preservation of which alone made Toc H what it is today. That principle was held against all-comers, in spite of every hostile argument, in spite of all financial considerations to the contrary . . .*

*'Again and again I was told temptingly of funds and private gifts available, provided the membership was limited (ie to ex-Servicemen — Editor). Yet against these temptations we were proof, preferring the far harder road because the Spirit of God suffered us not to limit Toc H to a dwindling past.*

*'All through these years, however, the one unchallenged fact was this: that Talbot House during three years of war had welcomed men when new arrived in Flanders, because old British troops cut up and decimated never displayed scorn towards newcomers, but simply set to work to build the old tradition in the new drafts replacing casualties. This great example, never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it upon the field, kept Talbot House survivors forward looking, determined to accept the younger men, to make them gladly welcome, to inspire them, to set their feet where older friends had stood. One of the qualities now seldom heard of, but much stressed in the early days, was this: "Will the new candidate for membership be wise as a selector of successors? Is he a judge of men of his own age? When we, who now elect him to the Brotherhood, have joined the Elder Brethren, can we rely upon his sense of judgment? Will he pick among the generation after his the strongest type of candidate, not chosen by birth or breeding, but on merit?" This apostolic sense of continuance destined within Toc H was very strong. I have met many members in my time and heard all kinds of views about the future; but it is of the essence of Toc H that those who follow us, the youngest members, should be as deeply certain as were we, that Toc H has a life to live, a work to do, which should out-last the children yet unborn. Like will breed like, and the unwise selector will choose a candidate still more unwise, until the fibre of the unit suffers, and nothing short of a new start will repair the damage.*

*'The men were taught at almost every meeting in the old days that Toc H, when it entrusted them with membership, entrusted them chiefly with the responsibility of selecting others. Therefore they were not bidden to sweep in that human jellyfish the 'easy joiner', but to devote if need be every energy, including prayer, to bringing in strong characters. Toc H was never meant to be a mass Movement, but always to remain a series of small picked and potent teams of men who really counted with their fellows. They could have guests, of course, and helpers of the freelance kind according to the requirements of the work; but the small core, or nucleus, who had attained to membership were to be knit beyond conventional unity; they were to be quite literally brothers. I do not think that they have ceased to be so.'*

Tubby has shown us the way. Toc H is not exclusive: it is open and inclusive. We are not a preservation society: we are tasked to transmit from generation to generation the spirit of love and friendship which is for ever. It is in that spirit that we must tackle today's and tomorrow's problems, refusing to dissipate our energies in harking back to a mythical golden age.

And moral courage. George Bell, Bishop of Chichester for the 30 years to his death in 1958, was born 100 years ago. Throughout his active life, regardless of popularity, he worked for Christian unity. He talked, travelled and wrote continuously in the fight for social justice, attracting much opprobrium from the 'establishment' of which he was part. During WW2, he spoke out fearlessly in the House of Lords and on any platform he could get against blanket condemnation of the German people and — even more dangerously — against our own excesses. *'To bomb cities as cities', he wrote, 'deliberately to attack civilians . . . is a wrong deed, whether done by the Nazis or by ourselves. It is to risk the very possibility of enabling civilisation to survive if we, its defendants, allow the spirit of revenge to dictate our actions in war . . .'* Brave words from a bishop in the middle of what had become a war for survival. Let us honour this great man in his centenary year, and how better than to brace ourselves to show a fraction of his moral courage?



# What's happening in Maidstone?

by Revd M B Perkins

## Swan House Opening

On 2 September a 'dream came true' for the Swan Group of Toc H in Maidstone. Half a dozen folk had got together in a pub called 'The Swan' in December 1980. In October 1981, having opened a coffee bar for the unemployed in Maidstone (story below), this group, with the help of The Carr-Gomm Society, set about the task of providing a home for six single, lonely people. This partnership in action led to the birth of the Carr-Gomm Society of Maidstone, who pushed ahead with the scheme thought up by the Toc H Swan Group.

One year and ten months later, the first residents started in their new home — Swan House. One of them, a Toc H member, overjoyed at the prospects which living there would offer him, said on choosing his room: *'Do you know, this is the first time in my life that I have had a room of my own'*. — He is 67...

Swan House is 'home' with a little 'h' for six people — a man of 67, another of 52, a girl of 28 and a man of 28, and two girls of 18. The Housekeeper/Warden is Judy Stolton, to whom great credit is due for quickly moulding that group of people into a family and turning Swan House into a 'home' in a matter of weeks.

On 21 September, Richard Carr-Gomm himself, the founder of the Carr-Gomm Society, officially opened Swan House. He was supported by the Mayor of Maidstone, the Directors of Carr-Gomm and of Toc H and a vast number of friends and supporters — in all over 100 people. The Blessing of the House was carried out by the Revd Malcolm (Polly) Perkins, who is not only a Toc H Staff Padre, but Regional Organiser (SE) of the Carr-Gomm Society.

It was a tremendously happy day, magnificently organised by the Maidstone Carr-Gomm Society, and the first few members of the 'Friends of Swan House'. Toc H-wise, this event was important, as it shows what can be achieved by two voluntary organisations working together. There are more than half a dozen instances of Toc H and Carr-Gomm working together in 'Caring Housing Schemes' up and down the country, and it is to be hoped that this will be the start of many more such combined operations. There used to be a saying in Toc H that *'Toc H gets things done'*. It still can and we in Maidstone have proved it!



*L to R, the Director of Toc H, the founder of the Carr-Gomm Society and the Mayor of Maidstone — all present at the opening of Swan House.*



*Les Harding (Maidstone Toc H), Judy Stolton (Housekeeper/Warden) with Maidstone's Mayor at the Swan House opening.*

Photos: SE Newspapers Ltd

## Coffee Bar for the Unemployed

This somewhat difficult realm of work was tackled by the Toc H Swan Group in Maidstone in June 1981 and lasted for two years and one month. It was closed down at the end of June 1983.

The 'Pop-in Coffee Bar' was run by Toc H volunteers assisted by Gingerbread Mums — another instance of two voluntary organisations working together. Many happy hours 'putting the world to rights' were spent there on the 203 occasions we were open. Over 400 visits were paid to the coffee bar by the unemployed and we helped 60 people in one way or another, either by finding them work to do, putting them in touch with people who could help them or sorting out family troubles. We also had over 150 visits from helpful, interested visitors.

We closed at the end of June 1983 for several reasons, the most happy of which was that ten of our 'regular customers' had got jobs and no longer needed us. The most unhappy reason was that the 'rent' of our premises was increased fivefold — a sure way of crippling us financially, as we were not in the business of making money. All in all, though, it was a most worthwhile operation, helping many people, giving Toc H good publicity and adding a new encouragement to Toc H in Maidstone.

It was sad to close, but a worthwhile job usefully done while it lasted. We are still in touch with those who used it, and, sad to say, one man missed us so much when we closed that he got lonely and depressed and ended up in a psychiatric hospital where we last visited him.

## Congratulations!

We have just learned that Henry Graham ('Chum') Hodge has been awarded the MBE. A member for well over 30 years, Chum is very well known in the Manchester Area and throughout the N Wales and NW Region. For many years he was associated with the development and management of Mark 4 in Manchester.

We all send Chum our warmest congratulations on an honour richly deserved.



Photo: Edward A Winpenny

*'Tommy' Asquith — NE Regional Chairman and editor of Northern Light — finished first in his regional final of the 1983 Legal and General 'Golden Years Award' for the liveliest pensioner. This brought him £500 plus another £500 to a charity nominated by him. He has now gone forward to the national final: we've not heard the result as we go to press but victory could bring him another £6,000.*



# Round and about

## Worn 'B4'!

Gorleston Joint Branch mounted an autumn Fashion Show and Sale. The models fought down their butterflies and paraded *'as to the manner born'*, says our informant Betty Brooks. A high fashion time was had by all and Toc H benefited to the tune of £180. *'Not attempted B4 but results A1!'*

## All coppers are welcome!

Ron Harrison tells us that when his Branch (Bognor Regis) were looking for an easy way to raise funds for a special project, somebody produced an empty bottle, whose neck was just wide enough to take pennies and halfpennies.

Members turned out their pockets and handbags at each Branch meeting. They were surprised to find:

- How quickly the bottle filled.
- How heavy the full bottle was.
- How much the contents totalled.

It's a good idea. Why not try it?

## We're getting younger!

About 25% of the Southern Region's membership is under 25, said Long Term Volunteer Nick Gore in the Bournemouth Evening Echo.

Nick, whose contract has been extended for a further year, and is now working in the North East Region, said there was a happy relationship between the generations: the young drew on the experience of the older members and the older members benefited from the enthusiasm of the young.

## Little and Large!

Cam District Chairman Geoffrey Heathcock claims that his District, though one of the smallest in numbers and largest in area in the Region, is holding its own. Raffles, jumble sales, market stalls etc helped them raise £600 to buy records for the radio request programme at Addenbrookes Hospital – some seven years supply! The Cam District took on this project which was started by Cambridge Branch in the days of the late Don Hall.

Flushed with success, Cam District has now set itself the task of providing further wheelchairs for the elderly housebound in their area – target £700.

## A spoon is a good weapon

If you're a woman member, are you a 'stirrer'? Probably – if you belong to the Co-operative Women's Guild, which celebrated its centenary this year.

From the beginning, they were businesslike, organising training courses for officials and speakers. They also mounted energetic campaigns on many fronts, such as the need for equal opportunities, a national health service, pensions and education.

Older readers may also remember the white poppies, symbol of their peace campaign of the '20s and '30s.

Their activities may have been offensive to some – for example, their campaign for the 'right' to abortion (as early as 1934) – so it is appropriate that the gifts they presented to the local authorities of Woolwich and Rochdale, where the Movement began, should be something used for stirring – large silver spoons!

## Perfect timing!

Extract from a report in the Kidderminster Times, reporting a Toc H meeting: *'All found their way to Callow Hill Methodist Church – except two, who passed the church and drove on for miles. They retraced their steps to arrive in time for refreshments.'*

## Suffolk Punch!

This autumn, we learn from Dot Turner, has been a busy one for Branches in Ipswich and Sudbury.

The Ipswich Women's Branch sent off two mums and their children for a caravan holiday – complete with groceries! – and the Men's Branch provided transport. About the same time, the ladies took a party of 12 mentally handicapped boys for a zoo outing in Colchester – the men again providing the transport. Dot tells us that the highlight of the day was a sausage and chips lunch – chips had been 'out' in the hospital for some time while kitchens were being refurbished.

Party dresses, plenty to eat, a lively sing song, and a good time was had by all when the few but energetic members of Sudbury Branch gave a tea party at the local Convent in September. After providing and preparing the tea, they still had sufficient energy to lead the sing song helped by the 'girls' for whom the Convent cares.

## What generation gap?

Our old friend Stan Mitchell (Bakewell Joint Branch) tells us of a fine joint effort in August. When James Power (of Nottingham's John Perkins House) wanted to take a coach party of youngsters to Chatsworth House for the day, Bakewell Branch rallied round. They raised the cost of the coach hire, joined in the trip and entertained the whole party afterwards in their HQ, the Medway Centre.

## Now come along you lot . . .

Since July, we've had no more twins – production has fallen off, you might say – but I'm sure this is only temporary. It's about time we had some more, and if you've forgotten how it's done, see the February issue!

## 'When the roll is called up yonder . . .'

The 1983 Lincolnshire Area Festival was held for the fourth year running in Faldingworth, the new (October) date attracting more people than usual – including friends from Notts and Derby. Some 80 members and friends shared a rededication service, a splendid tea, a roll call and an evening of games planned and directed by the indefatigable Eileen Vellam.

## 'I wish they would . . .'

. . . blow up the new bandstand – get me a kiss from film actress Bo Derek – clobber the litter louts with higher fines: just three out of 1,086 wishes received by Toc H in their Sheffield wishing week (see also June issue), which was combined with an Autumn Fayre (raising £200 for Family Purse).

The aim of the week, organised by LTV Nigel Pratt, was to discover the wishes of the people of Sheffield and in the opinion of Central Councillor Joan Hicks, it was a big success.

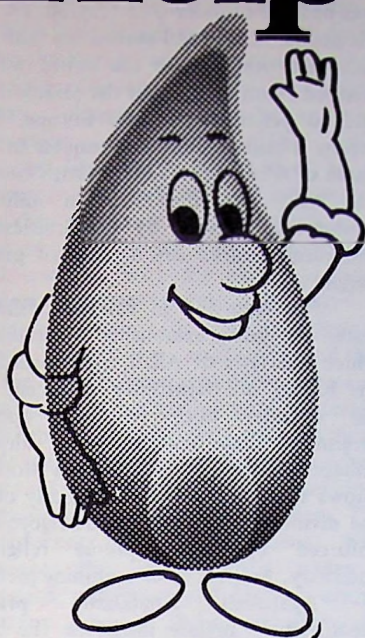
*'Toc H have wanted to do something to help people voice their views and I think this has succeeded. We had almost 80 volunteers with the 'wishing wells', some made up as clowns to attract attention.'*

Other wishes included more facilities for young people, cuts in rates, more police on the beat and more help for pensioners. 123 people came forward with offers to help the wishes come true and all these are being followed up.

Toc H has called a meeting where the public can question councillors, police and others about these and other wishes. Sadly, Miss Bo Derek will not be there . . .



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## NORTHERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Northern Gas, Norgas House,  
P.O. Box 1GB, Killingworth,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1GB.  
Tel: 0632 683000.

## NORTH WEST GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
North West Gas, Welman House,  
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 8AE.  
Tel: 061-928 6311.

## NEGAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Negas, 5-7 New York Road, Leeds,  
LS2 7PE. Tel: 0532 36291.

## EMGAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Emgas, P.O. Box 145,  
De Montfort Street, Leicester,  
LE1 9DB. Tel: 0533 551111.

## WEST MIDLANDS GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
West Midlands Gas, 5 Wharf Lane,  
Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2JP.  
Tel: 021-705 6888.

## WALES GAS

Chief Home Service Adviser,  
Wales Gas, Snelling House,  
Bute Terrace, Cardiff, CF1 2UF.  
Tel: 0222 33131.

## EASTERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Eastern Gas, Star House,  
Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2PD.  
Tel: 77 51151.

## NORTH THAMES GAS

Chief Home Service Adviser,  
North Thames Gas,  
North Thames House, London Road,  
Staines, Middx., TW18 4AE.  
Tel: 81 61666.

## SEGAS

Segas, Katharine Street, Croydon,  
CR9 1JU. Tel: 01-688 4466.

## SOUTHERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Southern Gas, P.O. Box 103,  
St. Mary's Road, Southampton,  
SO9 7GH. Tel: 0703 824124.



## SOUTH WEST GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
South West Gas, Riverside,  
Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol,  
BS18 1EQ. Tel: 027-56 61717.

## BRITISH GAS HOME SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The Home Service Adviser, or  
The Home Economist, British Gas,  
Marketing Division,  
326 High Holborn, London,  
WC1V 7PT. Tel: 01-242 0789.

## HELPFUEL SERVICES FROM THE GAS PEOPLE.

 **RoSPA** British Gas supports RoSPA and Age Concern in its 'Home Safety in Retirement' Campaign.  **AGE CONCERN**



# Welcome From the Director

The following Branches elected new members during September/October.

- 4 — Newcastle West (J)
- 3 — Fakenham (M), Leicester (W), Sheffield (J)
- 2 — Corby (J), Deal & Walmer (J), Sandown/Shanklin (J), Wimborne Tiggers (J) Group
- 1 — Acklam (W), Bideford (J), Cleveland District, Darlington (W), Felpham (M), Glen Parva (W), Greathouse (J), Melton Mowbray (W), North Walsham (M), RHHI (J), Rochdale (W), Rushden Pytchley (W), Salcombe (J), Swans Poperinge (J) Group, Wyre Forest (J)

A warm welcome to 36 new members



Photos: Reg Collins

For some years, Bournemouth and Christchurch Branch has worked with a number of other organisations in the 'Combined Disabled Group'. This year, for their main annual event, a local resident offered the use of their lovely old English garden for a week. During that period, the garden was open to the public for a small charge, light refreshments were available and the groups formed a rota to run 'bring and buy' stalls. The week brought together many people working for the disadvantaged and - after meeting all expenses - raised more than £850.

by Ken Prideaux-Brune



## Resurgent Islam

The future historian (if such there be) looking back on the last quarter of the 20th century may well see the resurgence of Islam as one of its most significant developments. I have been reading V S Naipaul's *Among the Believers*\*, a beautifully written account of a journey through four Muslim countries. Naipaul's vivid picture of the people he met gives me a frightening insight into the

fanaticism and determination of the new Islam.

From its very beginning Islam was a militant religion. The Prophet himself was not the founder of a religion. He led his people in war and spread his faith by conquest. And it was the sword which enabled Islam to conquer the Middle East and to penetrate far into Europe. The dream is still of military conquest in the name of Allah, and no longer with swords but with the most modern military equipment, financed by the limitless - and surely heaven-sent - flow of petrodollars.

In Iran and in Pakistan, Islamic states are being established - states in which the laws of Allah, as recorded in the Koran, are vigorously enforced. To the outsider both countries appear tyrannical dictatorships of an almost unbelievable cruelty but the new Moslem knows that men will not naturally obey the divine law - it has to be rigorously enforced by the supreme religious authority. Naipaul gives a chilling picture of Ayatollah Khomeini, priest, theologian - prelate might be the best translation of ayatollah in its modern meaning - and now the famous 'hanging judge' of the Khomeini regime. He is 'a bearded little fellow, about five feet tall, plump and jolly, with eyes merry behind his glasses'. And he speaks with satisfied pride of the hundreds of death warrants he has signed. He is the

## THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT! THE COUNTRYMAN

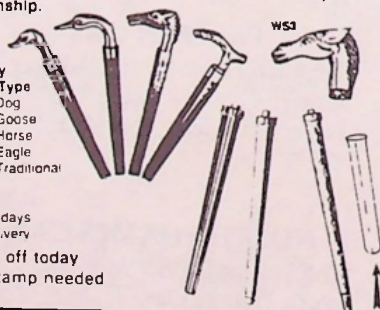
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representative on earth of God the avenger, the implacable judge.

The Moslem religion is concerned with the whole of life. Indeed regulations for the minutest details of daily life can — with a little imagination — be deduced from the Koran. Naipaul quotes an article from an Iranian magazine on Islamic urban planning — including this important requirement: *'The toilet fixtures like water closets shall be so arranged as to make the user not to face the City of Mecca either from his front or back side'*. Islamic banks, however, are still wrestling with the clear injunction against charging interest on loans — a problem which Christian theologians solved, to their own satisfaction and that of the bankers, several hundred years ago. The Islamic religious state naturally concerns itself particularly with the moral code defined from the Koran and here there is no hint of the unconscious humour of Islamic urban planners. The punishments inflicted on those who impinge this strict moral code — floggings, mutilation and deaths — are, to Western eyes at least, extreme and barbaric, suggesting a belief in a God of vengeance, not of compassion.

Yet these much publicised barbarities, horrifying and repellent as they are, are only part of the story. Islam has brought self confidence and a sense of belonging to people made rootless by the rapid social and economic changes of the 20th century. Naipaul writes of a great open air service at Teheran University, attended by close on a million people, and of the palpable atmosphere of unity and brotherhood. And one cannot but be impressed and moved by the ordinary Moslem's disciplined submission to the will of Allah and his ready acceptance of the duty to pray regularly five times a day. Naipaul records many instances of individuals demonstrating a depth of practical compassion totally at variance with Islam's contemporary public face.

The thing which came to me very forcefully as I read this book is that the aspects of resurgent Islam which repel and frighten us have their parallels within the Christian tradition — to very different degrees in some cases, but parallels nonetheless. Christianity, too, was a militant religion, spread by the sword. From the Crusades through the exploits of the Conquistadors to the spread of the British Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries, missionaries have had the ground prepared for them by the military. The Bible, like the Koran, is treated by some as though it has the answers to all the problems of life in a technological society. There were — and still are — Christians for whom the heart of religion is a moral code, and who believe that morality can be enforced by

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

All those responsible for organising playschemes should be familiar with their legal and moral responsibility for the safety and well being of the children. The Health and Safety Executive have published *'First Aid at Work' (HS(R)11)*. The approved Code of Practice there explained is mandatory not only on employers but also on playschemes staffed by volunteers. A detailed explanatory leaflet is available as part of a pack published by the National Playing Fields Association, 25 Ovington Square, London SW3, 1LQ. (*'How to Organise a Holiday Playscheme'* — price £1.50.)

Meanwhile you should note that the Health and Safety Executive recommend that a permanent first aid box should contain only the following items and **nothing else** (unless a doctor or SRN is present):

- card or leaflet giving general first aid guidance;
- individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings;
- sterile eye pads, with attachment;
- triangular bandages (these should if possible be sterile, if not, sterile coverings appropriate for serious wounds should also be included);
- safety pins;
- a selection of sterile unmedicated wound dressings;
- tweezers;
- scissors;
- soap and water and disposable drying materials, or suitable equivalents, should also be available. Where tap water is not available, sterile water or sterile normal saline, in disposable containers each holding at least 300ml should be kept easily accessible, and near to the first aid box, for eye irrigation.

Sufficient quantities of each item should always be available in every first aid box or container; at least the numbers of each item shown in the table below should be provided:

	Numbers of children using scheme		
	11-50	51-100	101-150
Guidance card	1	1	1
Individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings	40	40	40
Sterile eye pads, with attachment	4	6	8
Triangular bandages	4	6	8
Sterile coverings for serious wounds (where applicable)	4	6	8
Safety pins	12	12	12
Medium sized sterile unmedicated dressings	8	10	12
Large sterile unmedicated dressings	4	6	10
Extra large sterile unmedicated dressings	4	6	8
Sterile water or saline in disposable containers (where tap water is not available)	3	6	6

law. The answer to declining morals is tougher punishments.

And so, as we react with horror to the excesses of Islamic fundamentalism, we ought, perhaps, to remember that we should at the same time be rejecting these parallel strands within our own tradition — and, if we are honest, within ourselves. The Christian Gospel is not about a God of vengeance but about a God who forgives, not about a triumphant and omnipotent God but about a God so humble he could be pictured being born in a stable or washing the feet of his followers. The Cross demonstrates the

strength and power of that perfect humility. The Christian Gospel, too, looks forward to the establishment of nations ruled by God but they will be nations based, not on the strict enforcement of a rigid moral code, but on love and forgiveness.

And as we proclaim that Gospel let us not forget that there are many Moslems also for whom the heart of religion is brotherhood, compassion and a genuine experience of the living God.

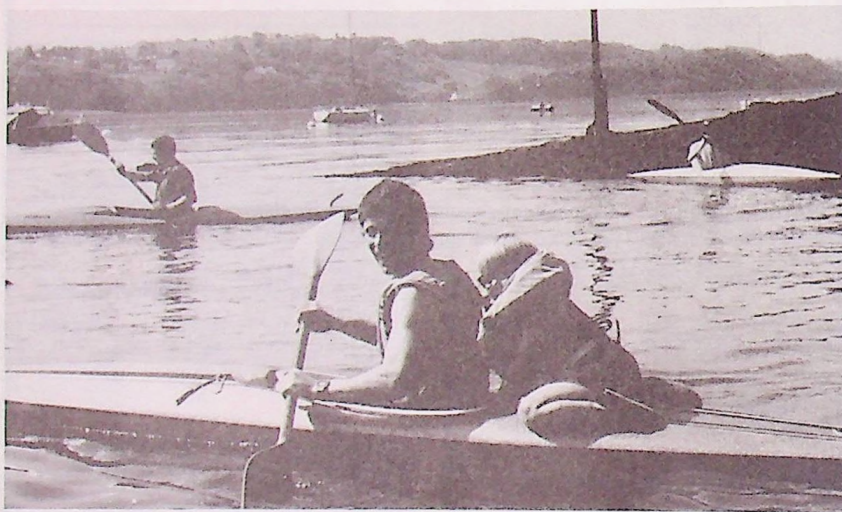
\*Penguin £2.75



Photo: Andy James



*Holiday week at Port Penrhyn.*



*Two's a crowd, but sometimes possible in a single seat canoe.*

Photos: A P Mitchell



*Fun for all: not all ships captains are salty sea dogs!*

# PO PEN

The Centre at Port Penrhyn was opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 1977. Even after six years, development of the facilities and buildings is still evolving with a firm of contractors progressing rapidly on the East Wing.

The original vision is being fulfilled. A glance at the bookings shows a wide diversity of people, from different areas, backgrounds and life styles coming together at Port Penrhyn, to live together for a period of time and undergoing a wide variety of challenges in their programmes.

The building looks much the same, though minor alterations and reshufflings have taken place to fulfil needs or create new opportunities. (These include fitting out the study, rebuilding the kitchen, replacing the showers and creating a laundry room.)

Thirty four people can be accommodated in two dormitories, with all facilities necessary for their stay. Most groups remark on the welcoming homely atmosphere which is generated by the building and staff.

The staff team has developed over the years to cope with both building and people. The building requires regular maintenance and upkeep, alterations etc; people require assistance inside and outside the building.

Many activities are undertaken by resident groups, limited only by the imagination of the leaders and capabilities of the groups' members. The staff team are 'on call' to use their local knowledge and contacts to ensure that any ideas for activities have the best possible chance of succeeding and the groups can gain maximum enjoyment from their undertakings, both indoors and outdoors. The staff team also offer specialist skills in many challenging outdoor pursuits to ensure that the quite extensive range of water sports equipment and mountain equipment is used safely, correctly and to the best advantage. The specialist



# PORT PENRHYN

by 'Mitch' Mitchell

activities offered by the Centre have been used and enjoyed by people ranging from three months to 84 years of age, able-bodied and handicapped alike.

Whilst people from all over the country make use of the facilities, there are many local groups who could equally enjoy Port Penrhyn. The East Wing will make all this possible. The building work initiated in 1975 will be completed later on this 'year with the re-roofing and rebuilding of this derelict Wing to the Centre. The project will allow the facilities and expertise of the Centre to be enjoyed by many groups in the Gwynedd area and presents an exciting new challenge to Toc H members, the staff team and the local population to spread the Toc H message abroad.

We are trying very hard in 1984 to entertain as many Toc H sponsored groups as possible. The two most positive ways in which you or your Branch can help with this are by organising a local group of people to stay at the Centre, or by approaching local bodies who you feel may benefit from a visit, and raising funds etc, to help them during their stay.

The staff at the Centre are always available to discuss these, or any other plans or ideas you may have.

We are very grateful for all the help that everyone has given us in the past, physically, mentally, or monetarily, and would like especially to thank the Friends of Port Penrhyn for providing us with many items which contribute greatly to the efficient functioning of the Centre. Any further help would be very gratefully received, as equipment and fittings do not last for ever, and the East Wing project has not yet been fully funded.

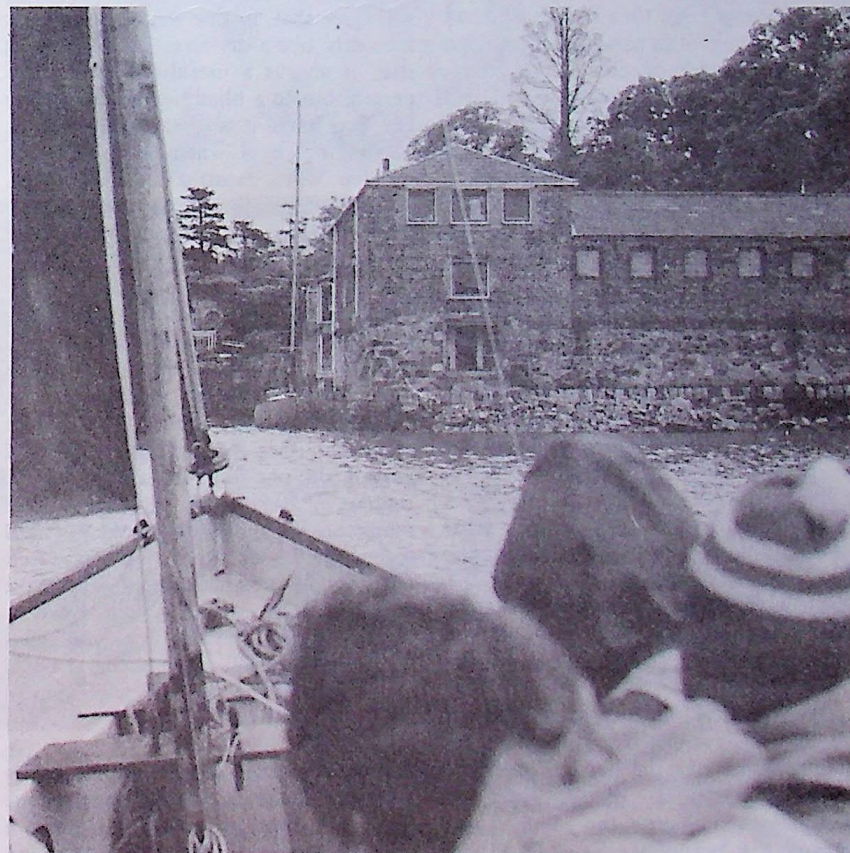
The doors are always open to anyone who may be passing and wishes to see the Centre, but owing to the commitments of the staff it is always as well to 'phone beforehand to check that someone will be there to meet you.



*Changeover time, the rescue boat and Squire exchange passengers and plans.*



*High speed action on the surf ski, towed behind the safety boat.*



*Returning home from a long day's sail.*



# Blind People can climb Mountains

by Tom Millican

The public image of blind people has improved immensely, especially since WWII. Although the blind will always need help, the emphasis is now, quite rightly, on the achievement of as much independence as possible. Independent mobility has been improved for the blind by the use of guide dogs, the long cane, and other aids. Nevertheless, the man in the street still finds it hard to believe, for example, that blind people can climb mountains. I have been totally blind for the past 20 years or more, and in July this year, I joined a group of blind people to climb Ben Nevis (4,406 feet).

My wife and my guide dog saw me on to the train for Glasgow at Oxenholme. The booking clerk at Oxenholme had telephoned Glasgow Central, telling them to look out for a fellow with a white stick, so that I could be linked up with the main party of blind people, who came in on the Royal Scot, shortly after my arrival. Somehow or other, laden with rucksacks and hand luggage, we formed ourselves into crocodiles, with a sighted person in front. Soon we were on our way by coach to Fort William via Loch Lomond, Rannock Moor and Glencoe.

At the hotel we met the rest of the party — blind people and their friends who had arrived from various parts of Scotland for the annual weekend climb. The group, which was founded by the late David Scott Blackhall (a notable blind man and the first presenter of 'In Touch', the Radio Four Programme for blind listeners) is known as 'The Milton Mountaineers'. That was in 1969, when 12 blind men climbed Ben Nevis in atrocious weather and enjoyed the experience so much that they decided to get together once a year to climb.

Since 1969, the group has climbed in Scotland, the Lake District and Wales and occasionally in the Pennines, tackling mountains like Ben Lomond, Helvellyn, Conistoun Old Man, Snowdon and Cader Idris. The members come from all parts of the United Kingdom and there have been women on each of our expeditions. Participants pay for their own travelling and accommodation, while the Milton Mountaineers, a registered charity, meets the bills for transport during the weekend, packed lunches, and a banquet on the final evening. The group includes people aged from the late 'teens to the seventies, from a wide variety of occupations. This year the youngest was 19 and the 'grandfather' was 73. There were factory workers, telephonists, 10

solicitors, computer programmers, a retired schoolmaster. There are also some sighted members, of course, including some wives, husbands, regular helpers, and the leader, a remarkable man with great gifts of leadership and the gift of keeping unruffled . . .

We stayed at the Milton Hotel, where the 1969 party stayed and got the idea for the name 'Milton Mountaineers'. After dinner, George, the leader, told us that we would be leaving at 9 am next day, so the older members opted to get as much sleep as possible. Next morning, fortified by a good breakfast, with haversacks and stout white sticks, an excited party waited outside in good time. Packed lunches distributed, we were off by Land Rover to the beginning of the tourist track up Ben Nevis. Our guides, men from an RAF Mountain Rescue Team, were waiting for us. Blind people needing a guide were asked to step forward. My guide, Colin, was from Halifax — I told him that I did not wish to walk too fast because I suffer mildly from angina and we moved off at 9.45 am.

It promised to be the most difficult climb that I had ever done, because of the rough going. Those who know Ben Nevis will agree that, in fine weather, the track is mostly like a dry river bed. A walking stick is always a useful aid to an older person, but to a blind person on a climb like Ben Nevis, it is invaluable. The stick acts as one's eyes, when gauging how far to step when crossing an open drain, running water, a boggy patch or from one boulder to another and generally when feeling ahead to find what to expect with the next step. Of course, Colin told me where to find the best points with my stick and, once the place is located, it is marvellous how one's foot goes to the right place. Colin's patience was inexhaustible, and, although I stumbled more than once, all I suffered was a slight grazing on one shin. It was a glorious summer's day, with a light haze tempering the full power of the sun until we were well above 3,000 feet. Occasionally we encountered other pairs of climbers, mostly at the frequent resting places. Colin kept replenishing his water bottle from springs, and he had chocolate and glucose sweets, while I had a supply of Kendal Mint Cake.

As we proceeded slowly up the zigzag track, Colin encouraged me by telling me that level going was not so far ahead. I must say that not many of these stretches materialised! However, this stratagem did

help to keep me going, as did encouraging words from those on their way down. Eventually, we were approaching the final ridge. I found that Colin had not been exaggerating when he had told me that we would be crossing a wide band of snow. I wished that there had been more snow, as it was a relief to be able to put a foot forward without hitting a boulder, or stepping on a rounded stone. On reaching the summit, we found that the early arrivals in our party had arrived about 2 pm: I was content to have done it in five hours. By about 3 pm all 17 blind climbers had arrived. While most of us were tucking into our packed lunches, George said a few words and read a poem by David Scott Blackhall. Cameras were clicking and, as sighted members enthused about the panorama of mountains, lochs and sea, we used our inward eye to imagine the picture. The early arrivals began the descent soon after the short ceremony, and the rest were soon following. The return journey took nearly as long as the ascent. By contrast to our morning ride, we were all strangely silent as we drove back to the hotel.

On Sunday our RAF guides took us walking in Glen Nevis. Although the path is very rocky in parts, this was a leisurely affair, with a two hour break for lunch by the river. Back at the hotel at 4 pm there was a brief service, conducted by a local Church of Scotland minister, to unveil a plaque in memory of David Scott Blackhall (1910-1981) . . .

One of the good things about the second half of the 20th century is the way in which the disabled can generally engage in a variety of careers and leisure pursuits. At last we are learning to look at the person rather than at their disability.

The last word must be David Scott Blackhall's poem, read on the summit of Ben Nevis on 16 July 1983 . . .

*'God grant that I may make a little mark  
Upon my parent's brow, the Mother  
Earth,  
May set my stone to mark the turning  
point.  
Life is the night we wake from and the  
dream  
Waits for interpretation. If they ask,  
I'll tell them I was harnessed to my  
neighbour;  
I left a sign, I had a debt to pay.  
A hundred years from now, a thousand  
years,  
If one should come, who sun and stars  
bewilder  
Whose voice calls back at him, a lonely  
cry,  
Who fears the shadows, hears the stranger  
walking . . .  
That he may sense the sunlit path, and  
find  
My little mark, my little stone, God  
grant'.*





Photo: Hampshire Chronicle

Winchester Sorptomist President fits a plug to the vacuum cleaner she presented to Edith House – the Toc H house in Hyde Street, Winchester for women in need of temporary accommodation. Margery Knight – wife of Revd Bob Knight – is Sister in Charge.



Photo: Birmingham Post and Mail

Ted Tunnadine, Chairman of Toc H Birmingham Outward Group, receives from the Manager of Barclays Bank's New Street Branch a cheque for £500 towards the cost of the Group's new transit vehicle. In the background are Brian Thaxton and Mike Bullock of Barclays Bank HQ: Mike, an ex-CEC member, himself belongs to the Outward Group.

Wroughton (Swindon) Women's Branch present a £150 cheque to the Warden of the Roughmoor Centre for the Deaf. This gift – the result of a 'knit-in', coffee morning and Alexandra Rose Day – completes the sum needed to buy a Teletex for the Centre's TV set.



Photo: Wiltshire Newspapers



Photo: Home Counties Newspapers

Freddie Mills developed a simple £12 safety alarm for the elderly and handicapped while he was working with Toc H in Australia. 'It is simple to operate', he says, 'easy to put together and has proved very effective'. Now settled in Luton, Freddie plans to patent his device and hopes it will be widely used in his new home area.

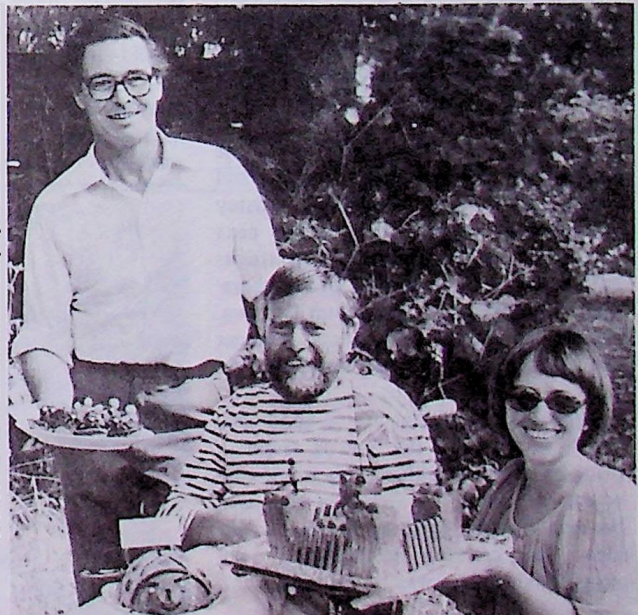


Photo: E C Paine

Toc H in Newbury mounted a garden fete in August in the Woodridge Rest Home in aid of research into multiple sclerosis. They raised £333.



# IDEAS CORNER

Could your Branch play a major part in increasing co-operation between local organisations? Then act as co-ordinators for a local festival, suggests John Silvester of Anstey Branch.

Arrange for several organisations to plan a special effort all to take place on a suitable day, the aim being to show off the activities and skills of the local people and organisations. All should be within easy walking distance of one another and some could even be grouped in a large hall. As co-ordinators, you would ensure that each organisation knows what the others are doing, that everyone who wants to exhibit finds venue and that plenty of food is available throughout the day. Do not get involved in minutes and paperwork — this is time consuming and achieves very little. He suggests six months to organise the project, so for something on August Bank Holiday you'd need to start in February — April.

Anstey organised a village festival on May Day and over 700 people attended seven venues. The 25 attractions included a large model railway, the parish church bell tower, an exhibition of local artists, Maypole dancing, a large display of old local photographs and stalls of hand made goods. (An additional attraction, suggested for large events by Revd 'Finny' Findlow of Cromer, is a display of some Toc H activities from the Movement — eg making an emergency flashing light, doing a sponsored knit-in, producing a talking newspaper — plus, of course, having an enquiry desk! See also the section on 'organising special events' in the Toc H Publicity Pack.)

The result was a thoroughly enjoyable day with everyone involved meeting and working with old and new friends. Anstey will probably repeat the festival next year. To co-ordinate such a project does not require a large number of members: they recommend a maximum of two. Remember says John, the secret is to get the other organisations to do the work!

Congratulations, John, for a good idea which is bang on the Toc H target — bringing people together. This is one case where we should be living in the past, because Toc H grew by having bright ideas for creating relationships, not logging faithfully away in obscurity!

Now how about some more bright ideas — don't just leave it to Anstey!

## Open Forum

### How's your memory?

I should be pleased to know if any of your readers remember me.

I joined the 7th Northamptonshire Regiment after Loos and remained with them until the finish.

I joined them as a sergeant taking over 14 Platoon. I was soon promoted to CSM and finished as RSM. I am a Toc H member here in Liverpool.

At the outbreak of the 1939 War I volunteered and was called up two days before war broke out as a Lieutenant, demobbed in 1948 with the rank of Major, having signed on to stay until not required.

I saw service in Greece, Austria and Italy . . .

Best wishes to all.

Bert Pike

Liverpool

**Note: This letter appeared originally in Northamptonshire's 'Evening Telegraph' and is here reproduced with their kind permission. I will forward to Bert any letters from readers. — Editor**

### A visit to Crawley

Readers might be interested in East Worthing Branch's visit to Clayton House, Crawley in September.

We were greeted warmly by Revd Edgar Wallace and his band of helpers and then taken to Ifield House to see the improvements made since last year. They were ready to take their first guests — permanent, daily and weekly boarders. The whole place, with ramps and lift for invalid chairs, is a hive of industry.

The house has such a welcoming atmosphere. The grounds are beautiful with stables, classrooms and workshops specially designed to help the

handicapped feel that they too are whole, useful citizen. There are also plans for greenhouses, so that work can go on all the year round under cover.

Everywhere staff greeted us with interest, and we felt their dedication to their project was Toc H through and through . . . Edgar Wallace said that this undertaking had also helped the jobless as he'd been able to take on about 200 unemployed from the district.

Back at Clayton House we had an excellent tea and went home feeling that something wonderful was happening at Crawley and Ifield.

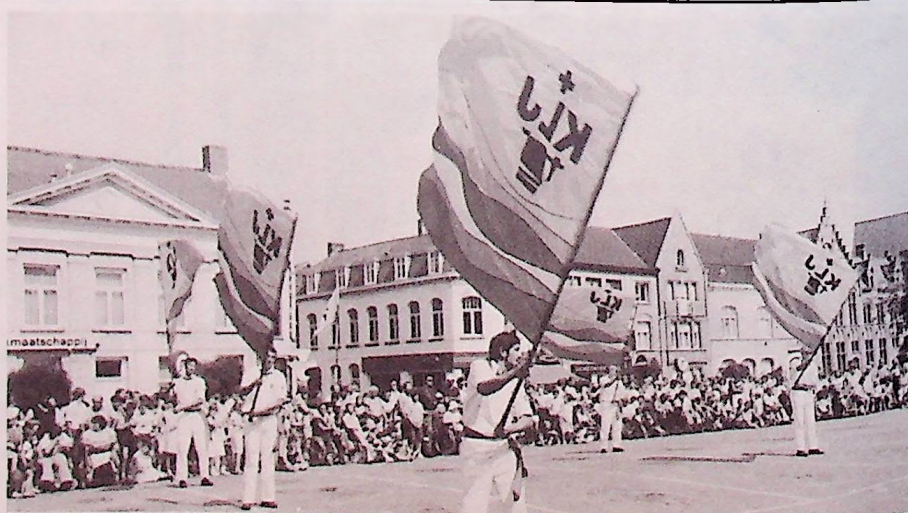
Peggy Cockayne

Worthing

### Festival of Music

Many readers of *Point Three* will know what I am talking about when I mention the Manchester Toc H Festival of Music and the Blind Appeal associated with it. For those who have heard of neither, let me explain.

The first Festival of Music was held in Manchester 26 years ago to raise money for Toc H and Toc H Children's Camps. With each succeeding year, the concerts gained in popularity and the enjoyment of a good evening's music with friends and other members of our widespread 'family' who come from far and wide. For some years we have been wonderfully entertained by well known brass bands conducted by Harry Mortimer. This year, on Saturday 8 October, owing to this famous conductor's retirement, we were entertained by the Greater Manchester Police Band and Police Choir, who gave us a feast of wonderful music, some old and well known and some more modern, eg selections from *Star Wars*, *ET*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Jesus Christ*,





Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

Superstar. There was also a singer, whose glorious soprano voice filled the large Free Trade Hall without the aid of a 'mike'. I'm sure that all those who enjoyed her songs will hope to hear her again next year, together with the Police Band and Choir. One stirring feature of these concerts is that when 'The Queen' is played, the whole audience gets to its feet and sings at the top of its voice.

Another feature is that we always have a large number of blind guests at our annual concerts, and their numbers have grown over the years. Most of these guests, who, with their guides, now number 200, come in parties but some bring their guide dogs which are so well behaved that, unless one actually sees them, one would not know they were part of the audience.

It is due only to the generosity of Toc H members in the North Wales and North West Region that we are able to give our blind guests what is, to many of them, the night of their lives. This year, 40 Branches have contributed a total of £360.50 to the Blind Appeal; one Branch even held a coffee evening and sent in the proceeds - £40.50.

On behalf of our guests, may I extend to all who support the Appeal sincere thanks and appreciations of your generosity.

Hilda Dickinson  
Rochdale

### The Old House

This year we decided to re-visit the Old House in Poperinge. What a wonderful welcome we received from Ivy and Charles Swan! We were able to visit several places, travelling by local buses and trains. Everyone was helpful wherever we went, especially the people of Poperinge who knew that we were at

Talbot House. With the glorious weather it was lovely to relax in the garden at the house. We met various visitors, including cyclists from Australia and America, school children from St Brelades, C Isles, a couple from Holland, a lone cyclist from Germany and - Jack Ostler from Bristol.

During our stay we realised how much the House meant to us, and wondered how many Toc H members really think or care about it. It was at Talbot House in 1915 that the spirit of the Toc H Movement was started by Tubby Clayton and outside, the banner still hangs with 'Everyman's Club 1915 - ?' Why not hold a coffee evening or mini-market and send a donation to Ivy and Charles to help towards the maintenance of the House? It would be much appreciated.

We are certainly looking forward to yet another visit.

Reg and Freda Coomes  
Thurmaston, Leics

### Nuclear Deterrence

In October's 'Personal View', Keith Rea put forward pragmatic reasons for advocating unilateral disarmament but surely it is even more important to declare, with no uncertain voice, that we cannot roast our fellow human beings to death, or threaten to do so, and still retain any shred of humanity. Certainly, as Keith said, we must reduce fear and give love a chance.

Frank Perkins  
Oxford

### The Wider Family

Greetings from South Australia to all our Toc H Family and friends.

You very kindly published a letter from me in *Point Three* (June 1982) in which I asked for any news of Queen Adelaide. Well we are still working on this, and have recently celebrated a third birthday party in her honour. It was a great success and very soon we shall present two special typewriters and a trampoline to crippled children with the proceeds. A local sculptor is working on a bust of our special Queen, which we hope to have placed somewhere in the city where many people will see it.

I hear there is a town of the same name in South Africa. Do they have a Branch of Toc H there? It would be wonderful to be in touch with them.

In a recent *Point Three* I read that we have many clergy among our members. Maybe this city has one who has risen to the top. Thomas Thornton Reed has been in Toc H there for many years, and before retiring from office recently he was consecrated the first Archbishop of Adelaide. He and his wife sat at the table with me at our Toc H Birthday this year. He is very active and tries to attend functions whenever possible.

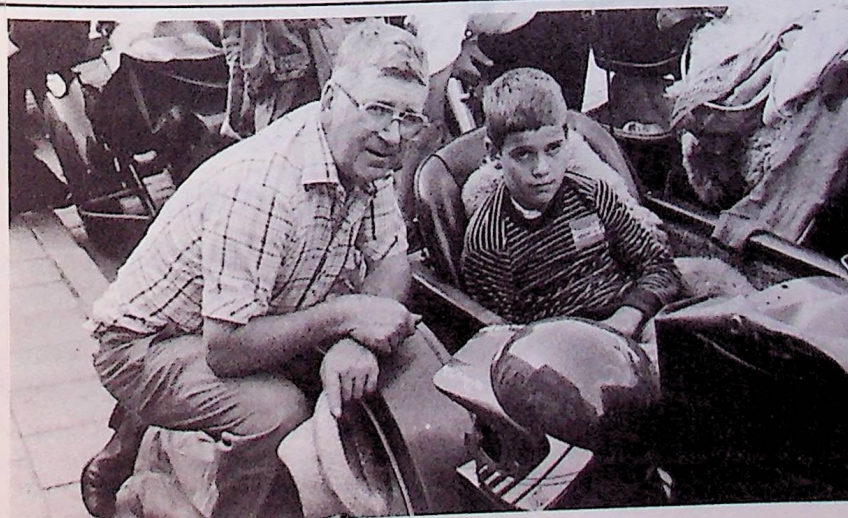
Members from many Branches observed the Michaelmas Day of Prayer, and concluded the day with a combined service in one of our city churches.

This month we are all working for a 'market', to be held on the Branch premises at Edwardstown. It will be a very busy day, and we expect the spring weather to be fine by then.

Thank you for your interest in us 'down under'. I'm sure you will have heard that we have come 'up top' in America and at long last taken their cup! You may well imagine the whole of our country is celebrating.

Dorothy Howie  
Adelaide, S Australia

In our August issue (p5) we told the story of the 'Jumbo Run' - nearly 300 motor cycle combinations from European countries, each carrying a disabled child and all centring on Poperinge. On the day, the procession entered the town greeted by bells from the Three Churches. A number of local groups - the Toc H Swans Group prominent among them - arranged displays, meals and entertainment for the 500 handicapped people in town that day. Our pictures show some of the crowd in Poperinge's market square and the Swans Group Chairman (Valere Deroo) with his handicapped nephew.



Photos: Ivy Swan



# 'LTVs'-What are they?

by Peter Ranken

Is an LTV an overworked project volunteer, or an underpaid member of Toc H staff? And what do the letters stand for anyway?

Well, 'LTV' stands for 'Long Term Volunteer' and the work that they do has elements both of the ordinary Toc H volunteer and the full time staff member. They are 'long term' volunteers, for the minimum period in which they work full time for Toc H is three months which can exceptionally extend for up to two years. They also differ from ordinary project volunteers in that they work very much more on their own initiative, instigating and developing activities, involving other people with Toc H and Toc H with people who may not have heard of us before. In this they are supported by local Toc H members and a member of the full time Toc H staff.

The size of the areas in which they work varies enormously from one building to the whole country. James Power, for example, has been working at the John Perkins House, Nottingham, helping to involve the residents of the house in the community. Gilles Cabon in Dunstable has been helping enable friendships and a sense of community in one part of the town, largely by organising activities and a couple of summer projects for the local kids. For the last year Nick Gore has been working on a larger scale, helping to set up and develop new young Toc H groups in Weymouth, Wimborne and The Isle of Wight, whilst Nigel Pratt has had to cover Yorkshire and the rest of the country in the Plus Bus (see Point Three June issue), distributing fun for kids and publicity for Toc H.

Like any group of people who come into contact with Toc H, Long Term Volunteers come with varying backgrounds, skills and experiences. They are frequently people who wish for a 'year out' before or after taking up full time studies at University or Polytechnic. Often they have already had experience with Toc H as project volunteers or leaders, but sometimes this is their first contact with the Movement.

As long Term Volunteers are working full time for Toc H, they are provided with board and lodging and a small amount of pocket money, both sums being paid for out of Central Funds.

But what is it like to be a Toc H Long Term Volunteer? Having been one myself for nine months in Hampshire in 1980, before going to college, I can say that it provides challenges in many different

forms. In my own case, it ranged from having to explain a Toc H project to 300 sixth formers on my first day (never having spoken in public before!) to saying goodbye to a child who had thoroughly enjoyed a week's project and whom I may never see again. Every week is different, meeting many special people within Toc H and without. This time with its challenges and meetings is time to discover those ideals and beliefs that are most important to you and to find out

that, most importantly of all – people matter.

What is the future role for LTV's with Toc H? At present and in the future it is seen that Long Term Volunteers will play an increasingly supplementary and complementary role to full time Toc H Staff. The existence of LTVs and the work they do involving new people with Toc H, helps to ensure that Toc H survives and thrives.

## The Director writes:

At present the following are working for us as LTVs:

**Nick Gore**, doing a second year, but now in Newcastle, primarily working with the Newcastle West group; **Nigel Pratt**, supporting the South Yorkshire District with a particular concern for developing the use of the Plus Bus; **Mark Beach**, supporting John Perkins House and developing work in the parish of All Saints; **Kenneth Guest**, continuing Gilles Cabon's work in Dunstable and undertaking a piece of Toc H extension in Leighton Buzzard; and **Helen Powell**, encouraging the development of young Toc H groups in Surrey and acting as a link person for project activity in the SE Region.

Immediate vacancies arise for someone to help with a new Toc H initiative in the multiracial Highfields area of Leicester, including the establishment of a new community house; and for someone to assist in developing young groups in

Northamptonshire. So, if you know of anyone with Toc H experience who might respond to the challenge of a year as a Toc H LTV, please ask him or her to write to Adrian Dudman at Wendover.

And if you see opportunities for an LTV to make a worthwhile contribution to Toc H development in your area, write also to Adrian. You will need to think carefully about the job you want done and to set down some clear and achievable short term and longer term objectives. You will also need to spell out the kind of regular and continuing support, encouragement and friendship that members locally are prepared to offer to anyone taking on the job. And, of course, the idea will need to be fully discussed with your Region and to have their backing and support.

LTVs make a very significant contribution to Toc H, both through the specific jobs they do and through the fresh and youthful thinking they bring to us. I hope we also make a valuable contribution in helping them to think through the direction they want their lives to take.



*Strode Park and Heme (Kent) Branch have presented sets of garden furniture to the Strode Park Home for the use of residents. The gift was a practical tribute to the memory of four of the residents – all founder members of the Toc H Branch – who died within a very short period.*

Photo: S Eastern Newspapers Ltd



# We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

## In June

Constance A Leest (Brighton)

## In July

Alice Pye (Shirley & Solihull)

## In August

Rose A Audsley (Barrow-on-Humber)

Gladys Toach (Glen Parva)

## In September

Herbert Baker (Somerton)

W Tom Brett (Whitstable)

T Cliff Frodsham (Merseyside District)

Arthur Hargreaves (Market Harborough)

Ian Mackenzie (Broadway)

John P Palmer (Maidstone)

## In October

C L A 'Drena' Gordon (West Central)

Verity Wellington (Somerton)

We apologise for our oversight in omitting the name of Harold W Tenney (Budleigh Salterton), who died in April.

*Hartley Wintney Branch suffered a great loss when Alan Herbert Ellis died in January at the age of 60. Herbert was struck down with polio in early childhood and was badly handicapped for the rest of his life. He came into Toc H during the War, and became a very committed member, serving as Branch and District Secretary for many years. He was well read, very knowledgeable, and his wit and humour enlivened many a Branch meeting. Despite his handicap he attended many Guest Nights and Festivals...*

*Herbert was never known to complain about his affliction, and his cheerfulness was an example to us all. In 1981 he suffered a black-out and never fully recovered but his interest in Toc H activities never waned...*

*At the Thanksgiving Service for his life, the esteem in which he was held was evident in the huge congregation which came to tender its last respects to a very brave and honourable man.*

EJP

Mrs Jean Duckworth writes to tell us of the death of her husband **Revd Geoffrey Duckworth** on Easter Sunday. Geoffrey gave long and unstinted service as Branch and District Padre in Haywards Heath, East Grinstead and in Hampshire where many members still remember him with affection. Following a coronary in 1965, Geoffrey was forced to retire and, since then, he and his wife have been faithful Builders.

A **Lewis Roberts** died in July in Hertfordshire, aged 91. He first joined the Movement in Mid-Salop in 1929. In 1973 he became a Builder and moved into the SE Region in 1975. We were touched recently when the nurse who cared for him during his last years wrote to us, enclosing a cheque: there had, by request, been no flowers at the cremation and the total donations were sent to us because his nurse and his closest friends knew that that would have been his wish.

**Reginald F ('Reg') Warters** - Broadway, Worcs Branch - died in July after some 46 years as a member, during which he had served in every Branch office open to him. He was a regular attender at Dor Knap functions and a Branch member ever ready to give advice and guidance when called on. Reg had been ill for a long time and in hospital for the past two years. Yet he kept a keen interest in Branch activities to the end. Broadway's Secretary says, 'We have lost one of our real Branch stalwarts who will be sadly missed'.

Bognor Regis Men's Branch have lost founder member **Leonard John ('Tommy') Tomlinson**, who died in July aged 77. A loyal and devoted member for almost 50 years, Tommy had held every Branch office. He was the life and soul of every meeting in which he shared - full of fun in the best Toc H tradition. Those who dealt with him professionally (he was a funeral director) always remembered his compassion, sympathy and understanding. His Branch say, 'Many social service organisations in Bognor Regis will miss Tommy's support and advice. He was a wonderful man...'

Tavistock Branch report the death of **Jack Ellis** in July aged 82. Jack started his Toc H life in Penzance in 1934 where he stayed for seven years. He then joined Plymouth Branch and later became a founder member and Chairman of Yelverton Branch. More recently he moved to Tavistock and became Branch Vice-Chairman. For 20 years, Jack was a prison visitor. Toc H was strongly represented among the very large gathering at his funeral service.

After a long and painful illness, **Elsie King** died in July on the day following the death of her blind husband. Elsie, a founder member of the old Halstead Branch of the Women's Association, had been a faithful Builder in recent years.

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.

-Editor

**Laura Burrows** (Uxbridge Joint Branch) died in July at the age of 88. Laura was one of the early LWH members and then a founder member of the old Ickenham and Uxbridge Women's Branch. She gave loyal and unstinting service through all those years and retained a lively interest in Branch activities to the end. 'She will always be remembered for her cheerfulness and is sadly missed.'

**Susan Harris** (Newbury Women's Branch) died in July at the age of 74. She had been a teacher for 43 years, retiring in 1969. During WW2, Susan helped organise and run one of the Toc H Canteens for the Forces. After the war, she gave much of her spare time to the Movement working with hospitals, the MS Society and children's homes. Despite losing both legs last year, Susan maintained her concern with helping others. Her memorial service included the Ceremony of Light. In lieu of flowers, some £180 was donated and this is being devoted to the work of Newbury's young Toc H Group to provide holidays for the young mentally handicapped.

Conwy (N Wales) Men's Branch have sadly lost member **Eric Lindley** who died in July. Eric had been a faithful Branch member for many years and, at his funeral service in the Conwy Wesleyan Chapel, the Minister spoke warmly of his Church and Toc H service.

**Laurence Burnham**, Vice-Chairman of Enfield Men's Branch died in August. Laurence had done sterling work in Africa for BELRA (now LEPR). He was a devoted Branch member for many years and had long served in District office.

**Revd William ('Bill') Hawkes** (Morecambe) died in August. Bill had taught for many years in the local grammar school and many of his former pupils were present at his funeral to give testimony to the effects of his Christian faith and example. When Bill retired, he became a curate in the parish church and there continued his service to the community and to Toc H. 'We in Toc H', writes the Branch Secretary, 'add our thanks to God for the gift of his friendship, cheerfulness and example.'

We give thanks for their lives



# Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Like a pen friend in Britain? All ages welcome. SAE to IFL Penfriend Service, UK, PO Box 117, Leicester.

North Wales. Happy family hotel, children welcome. 11 & C all rooms. Two minutes sandy beach and shops. Easy reach North Wales beauty spots and Snowdonia National Park. Parties welcome. SAE brochure: 'The Dolphin', 4 Paradise Crescent, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6AR. Tel: 0492 622223.

Jaywick, Clacton, Essex. Sea wall chalet, ideal for two adults, can sleep three. Car parking available, near shops. All electric. April to October £30 pw. Apply: Miss Nicolls, 38 Kings Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.



KING GEORGE'S HOUSE

## YMCA

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## TEN WAYS TO GIVE DEAF PEOPLE A HEARING

This advice is based on a poster produced by the British Deaf Association, whose Royal Patron is HRH The Princess of Wales. If you want further information or advice or can offer help, you should write to the Association's General Secretary at 38 Victoria Place, Carlisle, CA1 1HU.

— Editor

If you are communicating with someone who is deaf, please follow these guidelines:

1. Allow a little more time for the discussion.
2. Try to avoid unnecessary interruptions as these tend to break the deaf person's concentration.
3. Check with the deaf person that there is no distracting background noise: shut doors and windows, adjust fans, etc.
4. Stand or sit on the same level as the deaf person, in front of and no more than a few feet away from them. Be prepared to allow an Interpreter to sit next to you.
5. Do not sit or stand in front of a window as the light coming from behind you will cast shadows on your face and make it impossible to lip-read. Remember to stop talking if you have to turn away from the deaf person; don't start talking again until you are face-to-face and they are looking at you.
6. Keep your hands away from your face; do not play with a pen or drum your fingers on the desk; and do not smoke while talking. These are most distracting to a deaf person who is trying to watch and lip-read.
7. Avoid excessive facial movement. But don't take this advice too far by making your face a mask. Normal facial gestures and expressions are a good means of communication.
8. Lip-reading is largely guesswork. Many letters look alike on the lips and some are invisible. Of course, deaf people can only lip-read words with which they are familiar and they find it easier to lip-read the expected rather than the unexpected word. So try to avoid the unusual word or phrase and guard against an abrupt change of subject.
9. During your discussion, check that you are being understood. Don't assume that a nod of the head means comprehension. Repeat questions if necessary or re-phrase a question or statement using a simpler or different vocabulary. And don't hesitate to write things down if there is essential information the deaf person needs to understand or retain.
10. It is the deaf person with whom you are communicating. It is important that you show you recognise this. If he or she is accompanied by a friend, relative or Interpreter, don't talk exclusively to them and ignore the deaf person. To treat deaf people as incapable increases their alienation and lessens their trust. So persevere and communicate directly with them as often as possible.

... and please have time, show patience and take a little care.